

STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE STEVE DRIEHAUS ON HOUSE VOTE TO END ANTI-TRUST EXEMPTION FOR HEALTH INSURERS

WASHINGTON, DC—Representative Steve Driehaus today issued the following statement after the U.S. House of Representatives passed with overwhelming bipartisan support the Health Insurance Industry Fair Competition Act, which would end the anti-trust exemption for health insurance companies.

“The anti-trust exemption for health insurance companies is an unfair and outdated policy that stifles competition, promotes harmful business practices, and hurts American consumers. Families across the country are facing double-digit increases in their premiums every year, while insurance companies enjoy special treatment and saw a 56 percent increase in annual profits in 2009. The bill we passed today is a simple piece of legislation that will require healthcare insurers to compete for customers just like every other industry in America. We still have a long way to go to fix health care in this country, but today’s action is an important step forward in leveling the playing field between health insurance companies and patients.”

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